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U. S. Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
Animal Husbandry Division

Issued July 1941

Changes in the National Poultry Improvement Plan
Adopted at the 1941 Conference in
Chicago, Illinois
June 17 - 20

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General Regulations

U.S. Department of Agriculture

1. Page 1, Article 1, Regulation 1.

New definitions:

- (a) Baby chicks.—Chicks which have not been fed or watered.
- (b) Started chicks.—Chicks which have been fed or watered.
- (c) Breeding stock.—Chickens that are to be used for breeding purposes.
- (d) Hatchery.—Hatching equipment operated or controlled by any person, firm, or corporation who offers chicks for sale.
- (e) Flock owner.—A person, firm, or corporation who maintains a breeding flock of chickens.

2. Page 1, Article 1, New regulation:

Started chicks shall be labelled as such and all of the chicks in each lot sold or offered for sale shall be of the same age (hatching date) unless otherwise specified.

3. Page 1, Article 1, New regulation:

Evidence of non-compliance with the provisions of the plan which is established after thorough investigation and hearing to the satisfaction of the official State agency and not corrected within a reasonable time shall bar any participant from further participation for a period of two years.

4. Page 2, Paragraph 2.

Definition of official pullorum tester changed to read as follows:

Official pullorum tester.—A State livestock sanitary authority, an official of the State college of agriculture, or a similarly authorized State employee, or an employee of the official State agency, who has the training and qualifications necessary to do the pullorum-testing work as provided for in the plan.

5. Page 3, New regulation:

Effective September 1, 1943, participation in one of the pullorum-control classes of the plan shall be a prerequisite to participation in a breeding stage of the plan.

6. Page 3, Regulation 16.

Delete item (c): "Sex-separated cockerel chicks to be sold for non-breeding purposes."

7. Page 4, Regulation 18.

Delete this regulation.

8. Page 4, Regulation 22.

Delete phrase "prior to time they reach 6 months of age" in first sentence.

9. Page 4, Regulation 23.

Changed to read as follows:

Any person, firm, or corporation desiring to participate in the hatchery phase of the plan shall sign a hatchery agreement and shall not purchase, receive, offer for sale, or be a dealer in or agent for breeding stock, hatching eggs, or baby chicks, other than those produced under the plan, without special permission from the official State agency. (This regulation is to be interpreted to mean that such special permission may be given by the official State agency only for the introduction of breeding stock, hatching eggs, or baby chicks for use in the breeding flocks of participants.)

10. Page 4, New regulation:

Hatching eggs for the pullorum-control and -eradication classes and the breeding stages, except U.S.R.O.P. and U.S.R.O.M., shall weigh at least 1-11/12 ounces each, except that during the months of July, August, September, and October 1-10/12-ounce eggs may be hatched for broiler purposes.

U. S. Approved Breeding Stage

No changes adopted.

U. S. Verified and U. S. Certified Breeding Stages

Page 6, Section 2, Paragraph 2, last sentence; and
Page 7, Section 3, Paragraph 1, last sentence.

Changed the phrase "during the hatching season" to "during the year".

U. S. Record of Performance Breeding Stage

1. Page 7 (Section 3).

Following Paragraph 4 another paragraph included as follows:

Par. 5. By permission of the official State agency, U. S. Certified flocks may be mated to Canadian R.O.P. males provided such males meet U.S.R.O.P. qualifications.

2. Pages 7 and 8, Section 4, Paragraph 2 (begins on Page 7).

Added to last sentence the phrase "except with the approval of the official State agency." The sentence now reads as follows:

No females other than those entered in U.S.R.O.P. shall be allowed in the pens where U.S.R.O.P. candidates are being trap-nested, except with the approval of the official State agency.

3. Page 8, Paragraph 4.

In the third line of item (a) following the word "pen" the words "or sire number" were added. This item now reads as follows:

(a) The U.S.R.O.P. breeder who sells U.S.R.O.P. hatching eggs must send a report in triplicate at the time the eggs are shipped consisting of a list of the eggs sold, the pen or sire number and the dam number of each egg, and the egg production, average egg weight, and body weight of each dam, to the official State agency.

4. Page 8, Paragraph 7.

Changed to permit the birds to be trap-nested until the end of the calendar month before selecting the ones to be entered in U.S.R.O.P. by changing Paragraph 7 to read as follows:

Par. 7. All birds trap-nested on the premises of a U.S.R.O.P. breeder shall be considered as entered under U.S.R.O.P. supervision with the following exceptions: (a) preliminary trap-nesting to be allowed within one calendar month, such birds to be officially leg-banded or rejected on or before the last day of the month in which trapping commenced; (b) all qualified U.S.R.O.P. hens may be trap-nested; (c) a U.S.R.O.P. breeder may trap-nest certain birds for as long a period as 6 months for the purpose of obtaining progeny-test records on particular families; this additional private trapping is to be conducted only with the knowledge and consent of the official State agency, and the trap-nest records on these birds must at all times be open and available to the R.O.P. supervisor or his inspector;

(d) he may, with the approval of the official State agency, trap-nest any other breed or variety which he is developing as a basis for future U.S.R.O.P. work; and (e) with the approval of the official State agency, hens in their second or subsequent production years may be privately trapped to complete lifetime egg records that were begun before U.S.R.O.P. work was undertaken.

5. Page 11, Paragraph 17.

The words "or shell texture" were inserted after "shape" in third line of first sentence. This sentence now reads as follows:

The U.S.R.O.P. breeder and the R.O.P. inspector shall record the leg-band numbers of all U.S.R.O.P. candidates showing a standard disqualification, laying eggs of undesirable shape or shell texture, or laying tinted eggs in the case of white-egg breeds.

6. Page 11, Paragraph 18.

Changed to read as follows:

All females shall be of at least qualifying body weight for hens for each breed or variety and be reasonably good representatives of the breed or variety as designated in the American Standard of Perfection, allowance being made for the standard weight tolerance except that 3 pounds' tolerance shall be allowed for Plymouth Rocks, Jersey Giants, and breeds in the English and Asiatic classes. The weight of each female entered in U.S.R.O.P. shall be taken by the R.O.P. inspector at least twice between January 1 and August 1, and the average of these weights shall be used for purposes of qualifying for U.S.R.O.P.

7. Page 11, Paragraph 19.

Changed to read as follows:

All birds meeting the above requirements with respect to egg production, egg weight, egg-shell color, egg shape, shell texture, body weight, and freedom from standard disqualifications, and of reasonably good quality with respect to type, breed, and variety shall be considered as having met the requirements for U.S.R.O.P. females.

8. Page 11, Paragraph 20.

Changed to read as follows:

Males produced from U.S.R.O.P. chicks shall qualify as U.S.R.O.P. males provided they shall have passed the final individual inspection of an official State inspector not earlier than at 6 months of age. Each male passed by an inspector shall possess strong constitutional vigor and be a good representative of the breed or variety as designated by the American Standard of Perfection, shall be free from standard disqualifications, and shall be banded with a U.S.R.O.P. sealed and numbered official leg band when passed by the inspector. At the time of inspection and banding, the inspector shall make a complete record of the wing- and leg-band numbers of each male banded. Privately pedigreed males that have met the progeny-test requirements for U.S.R.O.M. males shall be considered as having met the requirements for U.S.R.O.M. and U.S.R.O.P. males and may be officially leg-banded as such.

9. Page 11, Paragraph 21.

Changed to read as follows:

U.S.R.C.P. matings.--These matings shall be comprised of only U.S.R.O.P. females mated to a U.S.R.O.P. male. The breeder may place in the U.S.R.C.P. mating females that are not U.S.R.O.P., provided he does not sell pedigreed eggs, chicks, or stock from such females as U.S.R.O.P. products. During the first year of U.S.R.O.P. breeding work carried on by any breeder, the male mated with U.S.R.O.P. females need not be a U.S.R.O.P. male, provided he is of equal pedigree. Such males may be used in similar matings during the second year of U.S.R.O.P. breeding work if re-inspected and passed by the inspector, but not thereafter unless they qualify as U.S.R.O.M. males. No eggs or progeny from such a mating shall be sold as U.S.R.O.P. products, except that male offspring produced during the first breeding year may be permitted to head U.S. Certified flocks in the State where produced or to head U.S.R.O.P. matings on the breeder's premises.

U. S. Register of Merit Breeding Stage

1. Page 12, Section 5.

New paragraph to be inserted to provide that for the purposes of qualifying for the U. S. Register of Merit breeding stage, the progeny records for one breeding season only shall be considered.

2. Page 12, Section 5, Paragraph 1. Change to read as follows:

U.S.R.O.M. male.--A U.S.R.O.M. male is a male which, when mated to U.S.R.O.P. females, has at least one-third of his daughters that are entered in U.S.R.O.P. qualify for U.S.R.O.P. and a minimum of 20 that qualify.

Pullorum-Control and -Eradication Classes

1. Page 13, Section 1, Paragraph 2.

First sentence changed to read as follows:

In order for a flock to qualify as U. S. Pullorum-Tested or U. S. Pullorum-Controlled, the testing of the birds for pullorum disease shall be done by an official pullorum tester or a pullorum-testing agent.

2. Page 14, Section 1, Paragraph 6; Page 15, Section 2, Paragraph 1, Page 15, Section 3, Paragraph 1; Page 16, Section 4, Paragraph 1.

Changed "4 months" to "5 months".

3. Page 15, Section 2, Paragraphs 1 and 2.

Reactor tolerance changed as follows:

Fewer than 9 percent reactors in 1941-42
" " 8 " " " 1942-43
" " 7 " " " 1943-44
" " 6 " " " 1944-45
" " 5 " " " 1945 - on

4. Page 15, Section 3.

Adopted the following as a new pullorum-control class:

Paragraph 1. U.S.Pullorum-Controlled flocks.--These flocks shall meet the following requirements: (a) All chickens over 5 months of age to be used as breeders shall be tested for pullorum disease under the supervision of an official State agency and contain fewer than 2 percent of reactors, the last test being made within 12 months immediately preceding the date of sale of hatching eggs or chicks from such flocks; (b) All indicated carriers of pullorum disease shall be removed from the premises upon the completion of the test and disposed of in a manner satisfactory to the official State agency; (c) All birds remaining in the flocks shall be properly leg-banded.

Par. 2. U. S. Pullorum-Controlled hatching eggs.--Such eggs are from U. S. Pullorum-Controlled flocks.

Par. 3. U. S. Pullorum-Controlled chicks.--These are hatched from eggs produced by U. S. Pullorum-Controlled, U. S. Pullorum-Passed, or U. S. Pullorum-Clean flocks, in a U. S. Pullorum-Controlled hatchery.

Par. 4. U. S. Pullorum-Controlled hatcheries.--These hatcheries operate under the supervision of an official State agency and hatch eggs or brood chicks from U. S. Pullorum-Controlled, U. S. Pullorum-Passed, or U. S. Pullorum-Clean flocks only.

5. Page 14, Section 1, Paragraph 8.

Changed to read as follows:

In the event that subsequent tests of U. S. Pullorum-Controlled flocks reveal 2 percent or more of reactors, or U. S. Pullorum-Passed or U. S. Pullorum-Clean flocks reveal any reactors, the owner shall have the right to submit all the reactors for autopsy and bacteriological examination, and in case such bacteriological examination fails to reveal any conclusive evidence of pullorum infection the flock shall retain its present standing.

6. Page 15, Section 1.

New paragraph added as follows:

Par. 12. Hatcheries participating in the pullorum-control phase of the plan only shall be inspected by an official State inspector at least once during the hatching season.

7. Page 15, Section 1.

New paragraph inserted as follows:

Par. 13. After flocks are tested, at least one-third of the flocks participating only in the pullorum-control phase of the plan shall be inspected by an official State inspector during the hatching season.

Dealer Participation

Official State agencies may permit hatching-egg dealers and chick dealers to participate in the plan under requirements similar to those in effect for hatcheries.

